



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
OMB Information Collection
Approval No.: 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Veterinary Shortage ID Code: TX112

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Wheeler, Hemphill, Roberts, Gray, Carson, Donley, and Collingsworth Counties- Texas
Panhandle

(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or
Location of Position: Intersection of Hwy 152 and Hwy 83 in Wheeler Texas

(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

☐ Type I Shortage: Private Practice

Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other _____

☒ Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area

Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☒ Beef Cattle
- ☒ Dairy Cattle
- ☒ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☒ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other : _____

☐ Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time*)

Employer: _____ Position Title: _____

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- ☐ Food Safety
- ☐ Public Health
- ☐ Epidemiology
- ☐ Other: _____

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

A veterinarian in this shortage area would play a pivotal role in the protection of animal health, human health and food safety. According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture and 2008 AVMA statistics, these counties have a combined total of 417,337 food animals and 7 veterinarians, which means there are 59,620 food animals per veterinarian. The veterinarian's objectives would be to educate and assist producers in developing and maintaining production practices which consider animal welfare, environmental concerns, efficiency and food safety. Serving as the first level of surveillance for foreign and emerging animal diseases such as foot and mouth disease, viral, bacterial and prion diseases in multiple species would be crucial. The state would anticipate that an awardee in this area would spend at least 50% of their time doing food animal private practice.

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

Daily activities would include examination, diagnosis and treatment of dairy and beef cattle, swine and small ruminants. The veterinarian would perform preventative or corrective surgical and obstetrical/reproductive procedures on animals. Maintenance of herd health is a crucial function, and the veterinarian would assist livestock owners with complying with state and federal regulations relating to animal health, reportable disease monitoring and interstate movement testing/health certificates. There would be frequent interaction and educational opportunities with lay employees and farm/ranch workers and owners. Topics could include animal welfare, food safety and quality assurance, drug residue avoidance, and preventive medicine. The veterinarian would perform accreditation duties as defined by the USDA.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

One area practice has employed five different associates in the last 12 years. The time needed to recruit an associate has exceeded three years. It is challenging to offer nationally competitive salaries in this area as the cost-of-living is approximately 65% of the US average. Previous and ongoing recruiting attempts include interviews with Texas A&M and Oklahoma State Veterinary School applicants, participation in job fairs, advertisements and direct involvement with the university recruiting programs. There are also efforts to engage young people through local 4H and FFA programs.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

Many of the larger operations in the area are well-managed and provide a wholesome and safe food supply, as well as manage the welfare and health of their animals. However, should a disease outbreak occur, the local veterinary manpower would rapidly be overwhelmed. In addition, the needs of larger operations sometimes leave existing practitioners with little time to help smaller clients who really require more education on the care of their livestock as well as the potential health risks associated with their animals. Use of over-the-counter medications without knowledge of withdrawal times could lead to drug residues which threaten human health on a national and international level. The growing practice of drinking unpasteurized milk products produced on smaller farms is also a public health concern. If additional veterinarians are not recruited to the area, farmers with sometimes limited knowledge of food safety and best practices will continue to operate on their own. Ultimately the lack of veterinarians increases response times to producers and causes an economic hardship to the area through sub-optimal production. The worst-case scenario is that a delayed diagnosis of reportable disease allows the

disease to spread widely leading to economic devastation and disruption of the food supply throughout the country.

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a "service in emergency" agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the "Service in Emergency" agreement.

N/A

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Dee Ellis, DVM, MPA
(point of contact Holly Poremski, DVM)
State Veterinarian/Executive Director

Title: Texas Animal Health Commission

Organization: comments@tahc.state.tx.us

Email: 800-550-8242 x718

Telephone Number: (Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OEP, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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